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REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

In the last Office Action the Examiner objected to the specification. The specification has been amended herein and it is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

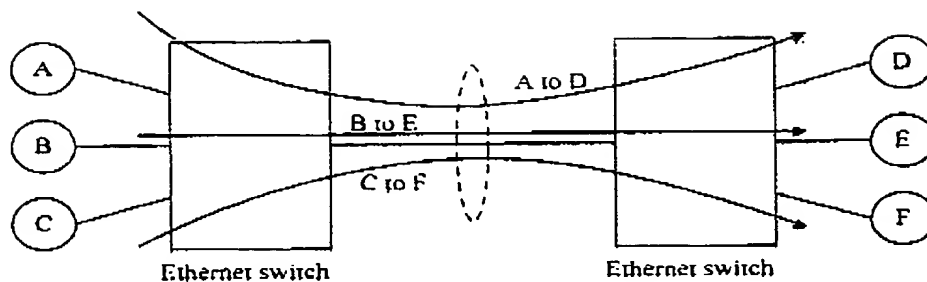
Claims 7, 11, 12 and 16-22 are found to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-10, 13-15 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma et al, in view of Cox et al. (USP No. 6,459,708).

It is respectfully and repeatedly stated that the present invention of this patent application takes advantage of trunking or aggregating technology enabling a redundant structure and an increased bandwidth to exclusively assign physical links composing logical links for traffics meeting a specified condition, thereby enabling a more reliable band control and a safer network with a redundant configuration than the prior art.

On the other hand, however, the patent to Cox et al. has a different object in which T1/E1 frames are multiplexed by a multiplexer, encapsulated into an IP packet, and carried to the opposed T1/E1 multiplexer.

Namely, the patent to Cox et al. only describes multiplexing upon converting T1/E1 frames into an IP packet, that is a method of multiplexing a plurality of physical links into a single physical link. Such a converter or multiplexer can be replaced by an L2 switch used over an ordinary Ethernet network which transfers frames transmitted from a plurality of terminals into a single uplink, as shown in reference Figure attached here-below, is different from the novel solution of the present invention of aggregating a plurality of physical links into a single logical link



In effect, the multiplexing by Cox et al. is basically different from the aggregating by the present invention.

Thus assuming arguendo one skilled in the art were to combine the teachings of Ma with the teachings of Cox, it still would not provide the novel solution of the claimed invention as recited in claim 1

It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ma et al. in view of Cox et al. be withdrawn.

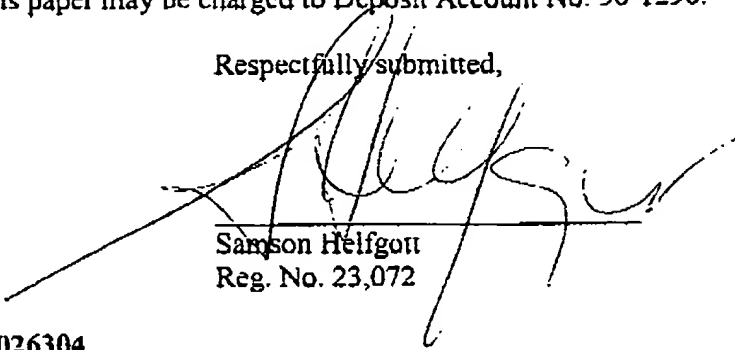
Also, claims 2-6,8-10,13-15 and 16-22 which depend directly or indirectly from precedent claim 1, are believed to be allowable at least because of their dependency therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-24 are most respectfully solicited.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Samson Helfgott
Reg. No. 23,072

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-8800

Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987

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